

ANNUAL REVIEW OF MEDICINE — Volume 6 — 1955. David A. Rytdand, Editor and John Anderson, Associate Editor, Stanford School of Medicine, Annual Reviews, Inc., Stanford, Calif., 1955. 459 pages, \$7.00.

In a scholarly introduction Bloomfield discusses the problem of keeping up with the medical literature: "The result of this vast plethora of medical writing, now completely out of hand from the standpoint of the potential reader, is a frantic attempt on all sides to concentrate, abbreviate, abstract and condense a subject in such fashion that the doctor has some faint chance of covering the ground. Some of these attempts are good and useful, others unfortunately introduce a new form of distemper: The reviewer or compiler faced by a vast and often highly specialized literature issues an article which is little more than a list of titles, and which is really almost useless.

"It is obvious then that the reviewer must carefully select the useful and important contributors; he must weave them into something of a coherent whole. He must assume that his readers are not already familiar with the intimate details of the subject . . . It is his task to synthesize the important advances in a subject in such fashion that a vivid story captures the reader's interest."

These conditions are fulfilled better in the Annual Review of Medicine than in any of its compeers with which this reviewer is familiar. Designed especially for those in teaching and research it can be useful to students and to practicing physicians with an established background of knowledge. The topics are covered in a manner both selective and directed, and for the most part thorough and interesting. The volume is heartily recommended.

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DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF INTERNAL DISEASES—Clinical Analysis and Synthesis of Symptoms and Signs on Pathophysiologic Basis—2nd Revised Edition. Julius Bauer, M.D., F.A.C.P., Clinical Professor of Medicine, College of Medical Evangelists, Los Angeles. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1955. 987 pages, \$15.00.

This is the second edition of a book already recognized as a stimulating work on signs and symptoms as applied to differential diagnosis of disease. The subtitle is stated as "Clinical Analysis and Synthesis of Symptoms and Signs on Pathophysiologic Basis." In line with this the reader is oriented early in the book by a scholarly examination of signs and symptoms; the most likely mechanisms involved in their occurrence are discussed and liberally illustrated with cases drawn from the author's own experience. The known facts and basic principles enumerated in earlier chapters are applied later to disorders of various systems. A large mass of material has been organized and compressed without loss of any of the essentials and is presented by the author in a readable narrative style. Throughout, the author has retained what is established and useful in a differential diagnosis of disease and has flavored this with little known or unusual information culled from the world literature and his own wide experience. Included also are new methods, disease entities, and mechanisms which have been elucidated since the first edition of this book (some examples are agammaglobulinemia as related to infections, cat scratch fever, chlorpromazine jaundice as diseases mentioned; and urinary catechols in pheochromocytoma and radioactive gold in tumor localization as diagnostic techniques). Throughout, the reader feels stimulated to review the extensive and well chosen bibliography. The summaries recorded at the end of each chapter help fix the contents of the chapter in the reader's mind in a most gratifying manner.

Perhaps the chapter on electrocardiography may well have been omitted, since there are excellent books on the

subject. It is difficult to see how electrocardiography can be profitably discussed in a few pages without accompanying photographs and illustrative tracings.

On occasion, the author after a well documented discussion of an established pathophysiological mechanism producing signs and symptoms will go beyond the implications of the supporting data to draw inferences in post hoc fashion. This serves to create a feeling of "patness" which one does not anticipate in a scientific work of this kind and thus subtly tends to tax, somewhat, the credulity of the reader. Additionally, the illustrative cases used by the author to emphasize his point on occasion do not seem pertinent to the discussion and tend to divert the reader from the subject at hand rather than to highlight the salient points.

When considered as a whole, however, this book presents a review of signs, symptoms and techniques concerned in a differential diagnosis of disease organized into an integrated system and written in a thoughtful manner with emphasis placed, properly, on clinical values and the more important and common disease entities. This reviewer feels that the author has succeeded in making this book an easily usable, effective teaching instrument; for anyone interested in reviewing the relative merits of the various factors entering into differential diagnosis of disease, this work provides excellent guidance.

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DOCTORS IN THE SKY—The Story of the Aero Medical Association. Robert J. Benford, M.D., Colonel, Medical Corps, United States Air Force. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, 301 East Lawrence Ave., Springfield, Ill., 1955. 326 pages, \$8.75.

"Doctors in the Sky" is a carefully documented history of the founding and development of the Aero Medical Association, the pioneer organization for aviation medicine in the United States. The difficulties encountered early in the days of aviation medicine are recalled in chronological order. The efforts to seek a rightful place for medicine in aviation, in keeping with the rapid development of aviation in the first half of the century, are revealed in painstaking detail, often, however, at the expense of the pace of the story. Colonel Benford has done an admirable job in describing the events associated with the Aero Medical Association. The biographies of its first 26 presidents are summarized in sequence as they take office.

Although this history will have a limited appeal, particularly to those men interested in aviation medicine, it will serve as a carefully recorded history for the Aero Medical Association. The format is excellent, the illustrations are good, and the style is pleasant. It will serve as a good reference for army, navy and civilian flight surgeons.

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WHEN MINDS GO WRONG—The Truth About Our Mentally Ill and Their Care in Mental Hospitals. John Maurice Grimes, M.D., formerly Staff Member of the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals, American Medical Association. The Devin-Adair Company, 23 East 26th Street, New York 10, N.Y., 1954. 246 pages, \$3.50.

This is a revision of a work originally published in 1951. The author has made an extensive survey of mental hospitals. This book is largely concerned with a very bitter and detailed criticism of the institutions, the personnel and the politicians. There is also a brief presentation of the author's overly simplified theories of mental illness and a rather vague idealistic plan for a new type of therapeutic village to replace the present mental hospitals. There is undoubtedly much of truth in what the author says. However, the overwhelming, continued, wholesale condemnation of everyone except the author grows tiresome and the reviewer doubts if the book will be widely read or accomplish much.